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8. The inventory-handling system as recited in claim 1, wherein at least one device of the first device or the second device comprises:

- a portable cabin having a platform to support an associated user of the at least one device and an enclosure to at least partially surround the associated user during movement of the at least one device; and
- a drive unit sized to be positioned underneath the platform and to dock with the portable cabin from underneath the platform, lift the portable cabin, and power the at least one device for movement.

9. The inventory-handling system as recited in claim 1, wherein at least one device of the first device or the second device comprises a tether to determine whether a distance between the at least one device and an associated user of the at least one device exceeds a threshold distance, and wherein the management module is further configured to receive a notification from the at least one device that the associated user is beyond the threshold distance based on the tether, and to take remedial action in response to the notification.

10. The inventory-handling system as recited in claim 1, wherein the management module is further configured to: receive a notification of a user-requested pickup location from a computing device associated with the user or the qualified user, and instruct at least one device of the first device or the second device to move to the user-requested pickup location.

11. A method comprising:

- receiving a first request relating to a first task to be completed by a user;
- receiving a second request relating to a second task to be completed by a qualified user;
- based at least in part on an availability of qualified users capable of handling the second task, prioritizing the first request and the second request to obtain a prioritized order of requests;
- generating a first task assignment corresponding to the first request;
- generating a second task assignment corresponding to the second request, wherein the first task assignment and the second task assignment are to be completed according to the prioritized order of requests;
- transmitting, via a communication interface of one or more computing devices, the first task assignment to a first device configured to transport users within a workspace of an inventory-handling system;
- transmitting, via the communication interface, the second task assignment to a second device configured to transport the users within the workspace;
- planning a first route associated with the first device in relation to known routes of one or more active drive units within the workspace to avoid collisions between the first device and the one or more active drive units within the workspace;

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planning a second route associated with the second device in relation to the known routes of the one or more active drive units within the workspace to avoid collisions between the second device and the one or more active drive units within the workspace;

directing movement of the first device with the user therein to a first destination location within the workspace along the first route; and

directing movement of the second device with the qualified user therein to a second destination location within the workspace along the second route.

12. The method as recited in claim 11, further comprising receiving a confirmation that the user has entered the first device before moving the first device.

13. The method as recited in claim 11, further comprising: designating an area around at least one of the first destination location or the second destination location as a protected area;

receiving an indication that an unauthorized object has entered the protected area; and

taking remedial action in response to receiving the indication.

14. The method as recited in claim 13, further comprising detecting the unauthorized object using a plurality of sentinel drive units positioned at a perimeter of the protected area.

15. The method as recited in claim 14, further comprising projecting a light beam from a first sentinel drive unit of the plurality of sentinel drive units toward a second sentinel drive unit of the plurality of sentinel drive units, wherein detecting the unauthorized object is based on detecting a break in the light beam.

16. The method as recited in claim 13, further comprising: determining that a portable object is within the protected area; and

directing a drive unit to clear the portable object from the protected area before arrival of the first device or the second device at the at least one destination location of the first destination location or the second destination location.

17. The method as recited in claim 11, further comprising: providing a portable cabin to support, and at least partially surround, the user of the first device during the movement of the first device;

positioning a drive unit underneath a platform of the portable cabin;

docking the drive unit to the portable cabin from underneath the platform;

lifting the portable cabin using the drive unit; and

moving the portable cabin using the drive unit during the movement of the first device within the workspace.

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